

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2008

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Fourteen years ago the world watched as genocide unfolded in Rwanda. Despite dire warnings and pleas for help, 800,000 people were brutally killed in less than one hundred days. Today the world looks back in painful regret at its failure to take action. Yet, we are likely to face a similarly harsh historical judgment if we do not once and for all take action against the genocide in Darfur.

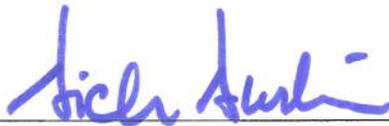
The crisis in Darfur is now more than five years old. In the time since it began, the world has once again watched a horrific humanitarian crisis unfold. Entire villages have been torched, their populations displaced. Thousands have been raped and tortured. Today, millions are living in sprawling refugee camps, their livelihoods and families having suffered unimaginable consequences. Over the years, you and the Congress have rightly called the actions in Darfur genocide. Both have said we must halt the violence.

Yet today, as we enter the sixth year of this crisis, efforts to bring an end to the violence are insufficient. The 26,000 member UN-African Union peacekeeping team, which was agreed upon last July, has put in place only a third of its forces. In addition to Sudanese obstruction, deployment has been delayed by a shortage of helicopters. It is simply unimaginable that the United States cannot provide, or work with allies to provide, a handful of helicopters to help fully deploy this critical peacekeeping force.

Some years after the genocide in Rwanda, President Clinton visited the country and met with families of the many victims. It was an honorable and important decision. He said, "We in the United States and the world community did not do as much as we could have and should have done to try to limit what occurred in Rwanda in 1994." Later in his life he said that the failure to act in Rwanda was "my great regret in international affairs." If we turn our backs on Darfur today as we did on the Rwandans in 1994, we too will be left to face the harsh light of history.

We urge you to use all the power of the White House to ensure that your legacy includes definitive action in Darfur.

Sincerely,



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Carl Levin

Allen Dech

Bob Carey, Jr.

Robert Mervin

Patrick Leahy

Tim Wicker

Muel D Feigert

John E. Summer

James H. Stein

John F. Kerry

Susan Collins

Ron Wyden

Ben Cardin

James H. ...

Elizabeth Dole

Chuck Schumer

Patty Murray

Mark R. Lautenberg

Shirley ...

Chris Dodd

George V. Kenosiah

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Jon Lick

Maria C. Sanchez

Burt

Chris

Amy Klobuchar

cc: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice